



# **STIMULUS PROGRAM NOTICE NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MASSACHUSETTS CITIES AND TOWNS**



**Issued: May 11, 2009**

**REVISED: May 22, 2009 (revisions in yellow)**

## **OPPORTUNITIES:**

- **Competitive Grants for Municipalities with a population under 35,000**
- **Energy Information Reporting System and Technical Assistance – All cities and towns are eligible**

## **BACKGROUND**

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is eligible to receive \$14,752,000 in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds for sub-grants to the 309 municipalities with less than 35,000 residents and for other uses identified in ARRA. Not less than sixty percent (60%) or \$8,851,200 of the EECBG funds are to be sub-granted to municipalities. In addition, as detailed in Governor Patrick's March 26, 2009 press release, the 42 municipalities in the Commonwealth with populations greater than 35,000 are eligible to receive \$27,4000,000 directly from DOE under EECBG.

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division will provide the following grant programs using the \$14,752,000 in EECBG funds for the following:

Grant Program	Program Budget	Eligible Municipalities	
		All 351	< 35,000
1.Competitive funding will be available for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar PV</li> <li>• Other <b>Clean Energy Technologies</b></li> <li>• Performance Contract buy-down</li> <li>• <b>Thermal Energy Efficiency Measures <i>in oil heated buildings only</i></b></li> </ul>	<b>\$12,252,000</b>		<b>X</b>
2.Provide DOER's Energy Information Reporting System free	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>X</b>	
3.Energy code training for all local building inspectors	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>X</b>	
4.Technical Assistance Grants for owners agents, energy reduction plans or other activities to support the competitive grant projects		<b>X</b>	

The following section provides guidance on each of the grant programs listed above. To find this guidance online or to access the May 15, 2009 webinar presentation go to the Department of Energy Resources website at [www.mass.gov/doer](http://www.mass.gov/doer).

## **1. Competitive Municipal Grants for Communities with less than 35,000 residents**

The 309 Massachusetts communities with less than 35,000 residents are eligible to submit grant applications as part of a competitive municipal grant program. Eligible projects include Solar PV projects, other renewable energy projects and performance contract buy-down. Municipalities will be allowed to submit a single application and awards will be capped at \$150,000. The total program budget for this grant is \$12,252,000.

Program	Description	Eligibility
Competitive Municipal Grants	<p>Competitive funding will be available to fund the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar PV</li> <li>• Other <b>Clean Energy Technologies</b></li> <li>• Performance Contract buy-down</li> <li>• <b>Thermal Energy Efficiency Measures in oil heated buildings only</b></li> </ul> <p>Grant awards will be capped at \$150,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shovel Ready project</li> <li>✓ Jobs created</li> <li>✓ Greenhouse Gas reductions</li> <li>✓ Funds leveraged</li> </ul>

## Application Process

DOER will submit an application to US DOE to fund this grant program by the deadline of June 25, 2009. The Secretary of Energy has 120 days to approve the grant program. DOER will announce the application process once the program has been approved by US DOE. Only those projects that are shovel ready, create jobs, reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and leverage other funds will be eligible.

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## 2. Energy Information Reporting System (EIS)

DOER's EIS will be provided to all three hundred and fifty-one (351) cities and towns free of charge. EIS will provide access to comprehensive up-to-date energy usage and cost information. The energy usage information and building information will be used to benchmark consumption and identify priority targets for efficiency investments, develop baseline data for performance contracting procurements, measure results, monitor and verify performance, identify deviations from performance expectations for prompt response, develop emissions inventory and track and report emission reductions.

Some of the features included in EIS are:

- Electronic download of utility data
- Point and click access
- Standard and custom reporting
- Integration of utility billing and usage data with building and energy end-use information

### Application Process for EIS

EIS will be available to all 351 cities and towns. DOER is presently selecting a vendor to provide this system. As soon as the system is available, all 351 cities and towns will be notified of the implementation and application process.

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## 3. Building Inspector Training – Energy Code

Under the Green Communities Act, the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) and DOER are required to develop a program for training on the MA state energy code for building inspectors. EECBG funds will be used to jumpstart this training for all local building officials. Included will be training regarding the Stretch Code.

No application process will be required. Training opportunities will be announced.

#### 4. Technical Assistance Grant Program for all communities

The Technical Assistance Grant Program is open to all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Municipalities must meet the applicable eligibility requirements listed in the following chart. Technical Assistance grants will be capped based on the type of assistance awarded and cities and towns are limited to a single technical assistance grant. Municipalities will be required to procure the services funded by this grant program.

Program	Description	Eligibility
Technical Assistance	Owners Agent – Performance Contracting Capped at \$10,000	√ Meet general criteria for entering into performance contract √ Formal vote to pursue performance contracting
	Owners Agent – Clean Energy Technologies Capped at \$10,000	√ Formal vote to pursue renewables project √ Demonstrate that municipality has pursued energy efficiency strategies in building
	Develop energy reduction plan Capped at \$5,000	√ Formal vote to commit to energy reduction plan

#### Application Process for Technical Assistance

DOER will submit an application to US DOE to fund this grant program by June 25, 2009. The Secretary of Energy has 120 days to approve the grant program. DOER will announce the application process once the program has been approved by US DOE. Only those projects that are shovel ready, create jobs, reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and leverage other funds will be eligible.

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#### CONTACTS:

Questions regarding this guidance should be submitted to either of the contacts listed below by noon on May 13, 2009 and will be responded to at the Friday, May 15, 2009 webinar scheduled for 10:00am. Green Communities will continue to take comments after the webinar.

Those interested in participating in the webinar may do so by registering through the DOER website at [www.mass.gov/doer](http://www.mass.gov/doer).

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#### DOER WEBSITE:

[www.mass.gov/doer](http://www.mass.gov/doer)

#### GREEN COMMUNITIES WEBSITE:

[www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities](http://www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities)

#### QUESTION and ANSWER WEBSITE:

<http://sites.google.com/site/eecbqqanda/>